

OBITUARY NOTICES.

It is with much regret that we chronicle the death of Mr. S. I. DA COSTA, one of the original members of the Society. He was born on June 1st, 1827, and died on the 28th of the same month last year, just over 80 years of age. Mr. Da Costa was for many years an enthusiastic collector of land, fresh-water, and marine shells from all parts of the world, but some years ago he parted with most of the marine forms and restricted his acquisitions chiefly to terrestrial species, especially those from the South American Continent, the beauty and extent of his series from that region being the admiration of conchologists, whom he was always pleased to welcome to his house.

From the first ordinary meeting of the Society on May 12th, 1893, Mr. Da Costa was a constant exhibitor of new or interesting species, and he took a close interest in the progress and management of the Society, and between the years 1895 and 1907 was six times elected to serve on the Council. He was not a prolific writer, having written only ten short papers of a purely descriptive character, all, with one exception, published in the Society's "Proceedings." These were invariably fully illustrated with plates or text-figures, to the cost of which he was always pleased to make a handsome contribution.

Mr. Da Costa had a very striking personality, and displayed a most genial manner towards his many conchological friends. In his early career he was engaged in engineering, but subsequently he became a member of Lloyds, and twice had the honour of being elected chairman of that body.

In concluding this brief notice it is most gratifying to state that, in accordance with the wish he many times expressed to his family, all the types in his collection have been placed in the British Museum by his son, at whose request the donation is to be regarded "as a gift in the name of my father."

The rest of Mr. Da Costa's collection was dispersed by public auction last October, and many were the beautiful and interesting shells which found new possessors.

E. A. S.

Miss CAROLINE BIRLEY, whose death occurred last year in her 56th year, became a member of this Society in 1894, and frequently attended its meetings. She was perhaps more attached to the science of geology than to the study of recent Mollusca, and was a very enthusiastic collector of fossils, in the course of years accumulating quite a large collection for a private individual. Some of her discoveries have been described by Dr. Henry Woodward and Mr. R. Bullen Newton in the *Geological Magazine* for 1900, 1901, and 1905; and in dec. v, vol. iv of that journal (1907) a fuller memoir of this lady is given by Dr. Woodward, to whom she was personally known for many years.
